

MEETING MINUTES
A2I Inland Rail Albury to Illabo
Albury Sub-Committee
Community Consultative Committee

DATE / TIME

7 August 2024
9.000am

LOCATION

Regional Business Centre
Level 1, 526 Swift St, Albury

FACILITATOR

Garry West

MINUTE TAKER

Garry West

DISTRIBUTION

Albury to Illabo CCC

ATTENDEES (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT ARTC)

- ▶ Garry West (Independent Chair)
- ▶ Michael Oliver (Greater Hume Council)
- ▶ David Tidey (Albury Business Connect)
- ▶ James Kennedy (A2P Delivery Director)
- ▶ Malcolm Clark (S2P/A2I Project Director)
- ▶ Casey Bootsma (Stakeholder Engagement Lead A2I)
- ▶ Wayne Window (Environment Manager)

APOLOGIES (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT ARTC)

- ▶ David Christy (Albury City Council)
- ▶ Les Fraser (Culcairn Development Committee)
- ▶ Dennis Toohey (Border Rail Action Committee)
- ▶ Paula Sheehan (Holbrook/Murray Landcare)
- ▶ John Zannes (Project Manager, Inland Rail, Transport for NSW)

GUESTS (SHOW ORGANISATION IF NOT ARTC)

- ▶ Clarissa Farrington (Director, Inland Rail Program Assurance, Commonwealth Infrastructure Projects Division, Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts)

Discussions

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
<p>1. Welcome & Introductions</p>	<p>The Chair opened the meeting with an acknowledgement of country and welcomed all to the meeting. The Chair sought agreement for him to record the meeting for the purpose of preparing minutes. No objections.</p> <p>The Chair noted that there has been a re-structuring at Inland Rail (IR) since the last meeting and that Melvyn Maylin has resigned and James Kennedy is the Delivery Director (Albury to Parkes) and Malcolm Clark is the Project Director A2I & S2P). Both provided a brief history of industry experience.</p> <p>James announced Casey has been promoted to Stakeholder Engagement & Communications Manager for Albury to Parkes.</p>
<p>2. Apologies</p>	<p>As Above</p>
<p>3. Declarations of Interest</p>	<p>No new declarations</p>
<p>4. Minutes of Previous Meeting</p>	<p>It was noted and agreed that the minutes of 18 October 2023 were approved and uploaded to the project website.</p>
<p>5. Actions from previous minutes</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Link to RtS and PIR has been circulated to members. 2. No change to the proposed location of the rail pedestrian crossing at Culcairn.
<p>6. Proponent's Reports</p>	<p>James Kennedy (A2P Delivery Director) Program Update.</p> <p>Legal establishment of inland Rail occurred in July 2023 with the appointment of a separate Board in August 2023. IR CEO Nick Miller was appointed in December 2023. 1 May 2024 IRPL became operational with its own governance and delivery arrangements. Looking ahead the focus is on performance and achieving delivery milestones, prioritising the construction of Inland Rail sections between Beveridge, Victoria and Parkes, NSW by end of June 2027. In addition, planning north of Narromine is progressing, securing the corridor through forward planning, approvals and land acquisition. Noted that Parkes to Narromine has already been completed.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>Beveridge to Albury is under construction in 2 tranches and John Holland have been awarded the construction contract. Albury to Illabo is an enhancement project and the construction contract awarded to Martinus and is awaiting environmental approval by the NSW Minister for Planning. Illabo to Stockinbingal involves construction of new track and procurement is underway and is also awaiting environmental NSW Government approval. Commonwealth assessment and approval is also required for I2S. S2P is an enhancement project and is currently in construction.</p> <p>(See slides for update on other IR sections.)</p> <p>Question: Daniel Tidey asked if there were weight implications as well as height changes moving to double stacked. JK advised there are no weight changes.</p> <p>Malcolm Clark (A2I Project Director) A2I Project Update. Site investigation and utility relocation works across the alignment are ongoing. Seasonal fauna surveys are currently being undertaken as well as surveying waterways.</p> <p>A NSW State Design Review Panel (SDRP) has been established for the project which delivers independent, expert and consistent design advice on State Significant projects related to urban design. Local councils are involved in this process. The detailed design phase is progressing with 20 design and 13 signalling packages across the A2I alignment. The scope and completion date for each site was detailed (see presentation slide).</p> <p>Various works are progressing through negotiated “possessions”. A2I Program involves utilities relocations by Martinus and are 68% complete. Investigation works are 98% complete. The design phase is 66% complete and construction activities are scheduled to commence later in 2024. Most early activity is currently focused at the Wagga Wagga area. Albury activity is not expected until early 2025.</p> <p>Question: Daniel Tidey indicated his focus was on supplier opportunities. Casey’s presentation will cover activities in that area.</p> <p>Casey Bootsma (Stakeholder Engagement Lead A2I) Community Update. IR is supporting communities along the alignment by making voluntary financial contributions. Eligible organisations can apply for amounts between \$1,000 and \$4,000. Round 19 – October 2023 saw grants totalling over \$25,000 and Round 20 – January 2024 grants over \$10,000 and Round 21 – April 2024 nearly \$24,000. Four rounds are conducted each year with details on the project website.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>An Inland Rail Skills Academy has seen 18 Wagga Wagga locals, including 16 First Nations participants graduate. This has facilitated Certificate II in Rail infrastructure training in Wagga Wagga in April 2024. 16 Graduates, including 5 multicultural council participants, 7 First Nation participants and 4 disadvantaged youth members graduate from the second cohort of the IRSA facilitated Certificate II in Rail Infrastructure training in Wagga Wagga in July 2024. Daniel Tidey commented that these activities deserved more publicity. JK advised that Martinus has taken on some of these graduates with some positive media to be generated.</p> <p>The Clontarf Foundation Partnership through the IR Skills Academy was launched in November 2023 for a further two years for a value of \$250,000 and will focus on the A2P footprint.</p> <p>IR Supplier Capability Workshops have been held over 5 rounds in Albury, Wagga Wagga, Parkes and Forbes. Since July 2023, 148 regional businesses (including 14 First Nations businesses) have participated learning what major project buyers want from suppliers and how to be more competitive.</p> <p>The STEM on track partnership with the University of Newcastle continues to give local primary and high school students a fun and educational glimpse into potential career paths in the rail industry with events in Albury and Wagga Wagga.</p> <p>Meetings are continuing with affected councils. Another round will be required after the September Local Government elections.</p> <p>Wayne Window (Environmental Manager)</p> <p>Wayne provided an overview of the Approval Pathway for A2I and advised the assessment by the NSW Department of Planning (DPHI) is almost complete is then referred to the Minister for Planning for a decision. IR is a Critical State Significant Infrastructure project and involved consideration of issues such as hours of work, operational noise, air quality, traffic, biodiversity and urban design outcomes. This involved Inland Rail, DHPI, Transport for NSW (TfNSW) & Councils. Following receipt of the Minister’s decision with conditions a number of Secondary approvals will need to be undertaken before construction can commence. These will include Construction Environmental Management Plans covering biodiversity and biosecurity, flood and emergencies, heritage, noise and vibration, soil and water and traffic.</p>

NO.	DISCUSSIONS
	<p>An Environmental representative is to be appointed who will be the interface between the contractor and the various government regulators.</p> <p>An Environmental Protection Licence (EPL) for 'rail construction' via the Environment Protection Authority (EPA) will be required, along with site establishment plans, social impact management plan, road works approvals via Councils or TfNSW.</p> <p>All post approval documents will be published on the project website and CCC members notified as these occur.</p>
<p>7. General Business</p>	<p>GW raised on behalf of Dennis Toohey his request for details of the length and locations of passing loops between Melbourne and Parkes. MC advised the only passing loop planned is the Daroobalgie Loop near Forbes.</p> <p>Post Meeting Note: There is also a proposed passing loop East of Ironbong Road, approx. 10km North of Illabo in the Illabo to Stockinbingal (I2S) section.</p>
<p>8. Conclusion</p>	<p>The Chair indicated that the CCC membership needed to be reviewed as the project moves into the construction phase. He will be seeking advice from all existing members as to their future participation and seek any new stakeholders who may be impacted and wish to participate.</p> <p>The CCC will move to holding meetings on a quarterly basis. Recommended dates are shown below for 2024 and 2025.</p> <p>Mr West closed the meeting with a reminder about the level crossing safety campaign.</p>

Next Meeting

2024 – 6 November

2025 – 5 February; 7 May; 6 August & 5 November